## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 24, and replace it with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- As an alternative, monitoring of expression of Oct-4 by RT-PCR was carried out on colonies consisting predominantly of stem cells. mRNA isolated through whole cell extraction and cDNA synthesis was performed by reverse transcription. The following primers were used for PCR amplification: 5'-CCACATCGGCCTGTGTATAT-3' (SEQ ID NO: 1, antisense primer for Oct-4a and Oct-4b) and 5'-CTCCTGGAGGGCCAGGAATC-3' (SEQ ID NO: 2, sense primer for Oct-4a), 5'-ATGCATGAGTCAGTGAACAG-3' (SEQ ID NO: 3, sense primer for Oct-4b). PCR amplification was performed as follows: 1 min at 94°C, 1 min at 55°C, and 1 min at 72°C up to 35 cycles. PCR products were analyzed on 1% agarose gel and visualized by ethidium bromide staining followed by Biorad image analyzer. Oct-4a and 4b expression was monitored by this method. Table 1 summarizes the results.--